

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of image compression, comprising:
 - (a) comparing blocks of pixels in a strip of blocks in an input image to corresponding blocks of pixels in a corresponding strip of blocks of a prior image;
 - (b) encoding said strip of blocks of an input image as said corresponding strip of blocks of a prior image when said comparing of step (a) indicates said strip approximates said corresponding strip.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein:
 - (a) said comparing of step (a) of claim 1 includes comparing to a threshold the difference between DC coefficients of each of the blocks of said strip and DC coefficients of each of the blocks of said corresponding strip.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - (a) encoding said strip of blocks of an input image of step (a) of claim 1 by JPEG encoding when said comparing of step (a) indicates said strip fails to approximate said corresponding strip.
4. A surveillance system, comprising:
 - (a) a camera with an output for images;
 - (b) an image compressor coupled to said output, said compressor including a decision-comparator for a strip of blocks of pixels of an input image compared to a corresponding strip of blocks of pixels of a prior image and an encoder for said strip of blocks of pixels of an input image coupled to said decision-comparator and with alternative methods of encoding; and
 - (c) a second output coupled to said encoder.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein:
- (a) said image compressor includes an input buffer memory; and
 - (b) said buffer memory has size sufficient to contain said strip of blocks.